E.) REMARKS

This Response is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 23, 2003.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-32 and 40-43 will be pending in the Application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-32 and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,593,464) in view of Hosler, Sr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,062,808).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-32 and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,593,464), hereinafter referred to as "Williams" in view of Hosler, Sr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,062,808), hereafter referred to as "Hosler."

Specifically, the Examiner stated that

> Williams discloses an electrical contact comprising: a rear end having a first interface (right side of Fig. 5); and a front end having a second interface (left side of Fig.5). Williams discloses substantially the claimed invention except for prevention of the flexible contact medium from being bent toward the center. Hosler teaches a triaxial contact (Fig. 3) with a second interface (right side/138) with a flanged/curved rim that prevents the flexible medium (112/124) from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact to protect the flexible medium. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical contact of Williams with the second interface that prevents the flexible medium from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact, as taught by Hosler, to protect the flexible medium. ...
>
> Specifically in regard to claim 15, Williams discloses an electrical contact comprising: an intermediate contact (20) having a flexible connection medium; an outer contact (10) surrounding the intermediate contact; a first insulator (2) surrounding the intermediate contact and the flexible connection medium, wherein the first insulator provides electrical isolation of the intermediate contact from the outer contact, and wherein the first insulator has a front face, and wherein the outer contact surrounds the first insulator; and a center contact (30) surrounded by the intermediate contact. Williams discloses substantially the claimed invention except for prevention of the flexible contact medium from being bent toward the center. Hosler teaches a triaxial contact (Fig. 3) with a second interface (right side/138) with a flanged/curved rim that prevents the

flexible medium (112/124) from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact to protect the flexible medium. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical contact of Williams with the second interface that prevents the flexible medium from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact, as taught by Hosler, to protect the flexible medium. ...

Specifically on claim 31, Williams teaches an electrical connector comprising: a shell (1); an electrical contact (10, 20, 30) located within the housing, comprising: a rear end having a first interface, and a front end having a second interface to a connector; and at least one other electrical contact located within the shell; the shell is substantially circular and surrounds the electrical contacts. Williams discloses substantially the claimed invention except for prevention of the flexible contact medium from being bent toward the center. Hosler teaches a triaxial contact (Fig. 3) with a second interface (right side/138) with a flanged/curved rim that prevents the flexible medium (112/124) from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact to protect the flexible medium. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the electrical contact of Williams with the second interface that prevents the flexible medium from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact, as taught by Hosler, to protect the flexible medium.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-32 and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Williams, as understood, is directed to a method of making a triaxial electrical connector. The triaxial electrical connector includes an electrically nonconducting housing 1, first and second tubular conductors 10 and 20, a center conductor 30 and a plurality of cylindrical conductors 40 connected to respective tubular conductors. The nonconducting housing includes first second tubular insulators 2, 3 to isolate the tubular conductors 20, 30 and the center conductor 30 from each other. Tubular conductor 10 has a forward mating portion that includes a plurality of spring fingers 11 that are resiliently and radially deflectable. The tubular conductor 10 also includes a radially inwardly extending lip 12 having one or more notches 13 therein. A cylindrically shaped electrically conductive terminal 40 has an annular groove 41 that is adapted to engage the notch 13 of the tubular conductor 10.

Hosler, as understood, is directed to a connector for triaxial cable. Adapter 10 includes an inner contact member 50, an intermediate contact member 110 and forward and rearward

outer contact shell members 20 and 30. Forward and rearward first or inner dielectric sleeve members 70,90 are disposed between inner contact 50 and intermediate contact 110. Forward and rearward second or outer dielectric sleeve members 130,150 surround intermediate contact 110 and are surrounded by forward and rearward outer contacts 20 and 30 respectively. Intermediate contact 110 includes a body section 116 having an annular collar 118 defining forwardly and rearwardly facing stop surfaces 120,122, and further includes forward and rearward contact sections 124,126 extending to leading ends 112,114 respectively. Forward contact section 124 includes an array of short cantilever beam spring arms 128 slightly converging at leading end 112 and deflectable outwardly against the inside surface of forward second sleeve 130 therearound upon mating of adapter 10 with triaxial connector 200. Forward second sleeve 130 includes body section 132 extending to forward end 134 and rearward end 136, and includes a short reduced diameter collar 138 at forward end 134 defining a protective entrance for spring arms 128 of intermediate contact 110 when receiving thereinto plug portion 202 of connector 200 upon mating and is also beveled at peripheral inner edge 140 to provide a lead-in, and includes a step at peripheral outer edge 142 to define a stop surface 144.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites an electrical contact comprising a rear end having a first interface and a front end having a second interface to a connector. The second interface comprising a flexible electrical contact medium having a plurality of flexible members and an insulating member surrounding the flexible contact medium. The insulating member having a flanged portion, the flanged portion being configured to receive an end of each of the plurality of flexible members. An end of each of the plurality of flexible members being disposed under the flanged portion to prevent the electrical flexible contact medium from being bent inward toward a center of the electrical contact, whereby probe damage is prevented.

Independent claim 15 recites an electrical contact comprising an intermediate contact having a flexible connection medium. The intermediate contact including a rear end having a first interface and a front end having a second interface. The electrical contact further comprising an outer contact surrounding the intermediate contact and a first insulator surrounding the intermediate contact and the flexible connection medium. The first insulator provides electrical isolation of the intermediate contact from the outer contact. The first insulator having a flange,

the flange being configured to receive a front portion of the flexible connection medium. The front portion of the flexible connection medium being disposed under the flange to protect the flexible connection medium from being bent toward a center of the electrical contact by an electrical connector. Wherein the outer contact surrounds the first insulator. The electrical contact further comprising a center contact surrounded by the intermediate contact.

Independent claim 31 recites an electrical connector comprising a shell, an electrical contact located within the shell, and at least one other electrical contact located within the shell. The electrical contact comprising a rear end having a first interface, and a front end having a second interface to a connector. The second interface has an insulator with a flanged portion located above a front portion of the electrical contact to prevent the electrical contact from being bent toward a center of the electrical contact by the connector.

Independent claim 40 recites pin contact comprising an outer contact, an intermediate contact surrounded by the outer contact, and a center contact surrounded by the outer contact and the intermediate contact. The intermediate contact has an outer insulative body and an inner flexible conductive body. The outer insulative body having a flange, the flange being configured to receive a front portion of the inner flexible conductive body, wherein the front portion of the inner flexible conductive body being disposed under the flange to prevent the inner flexible conductive body from being bent toward a center of the electrical contact by a connector mating with the pin contact.

To begin, claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled herein, thereby rendering the rejection theragainst moot. Next, several of the features recited by Applicant in independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40 are not taught or suggested by Williams. Williams does not teach or suggest an end of each of the plurality of flexible members being disposed under the flanged portion to prevent the electrical flexible contact medium from being bent inward toward a center of the electrical contact as recited generally by Applicant in independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40. Williams discloses tubular insulators to isolate the tubular conductors and the center conductor from each other. There is nothing in Williams that teaches or suggests that an end or portion of an electrical conductor is disposed under a flange of an insulator as recited generally by Applicant in independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40. Furthermore, there is nothing in Hosler that teaches or

suggests any of the limitations in independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40 not taught or suggested by Williams. While Hosler may teach or suggest that the sleeve has a short reduced diameter collar at the forward end defining a protective entrance for spring arms. Hosler clearly does not teach or suggest that an end or portion of an electrical conductor is disposed under a flange of an insulator as recited generally by Applicant in independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40. As shown in Figure 4 of Hosler, there is clearly a gap between the ends of the spring arms and the reduced diameter collar in Hosler, thus precluding an end or portion of an electrical conductor from being disposed under a flange of an insulator as recited generally by Applicant in independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40

Therefore, in view of the above, independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40 are believed to be distinguishable from Williams and/or Hosler and therefore are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Williams and/or Hosler. Dependent claims 2, 5-8, 10-14, 16-30, 32 and 41-43 are believed to be distinguishable from Williams and/or Hosler as depending from what are believed to be allowable independent claims 1, 15, 31 and 40 as discussed above. In addition, claims 2, 5-8, 10-14, 16-30, 32 and 41-43 recite further limitations that distinguish over the applied art. For example, dependent claims 5 and 19 recite generally that the ends of the flexible connection medium are tapered. Neither Williams or Hosler discloses this feature and the Examiner has not recited any specific passage in Williams or Hosler that teaches or suggests this feature recited by Applicant.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has improperly combined Williams and Hosler. The Examiner has provided no teaching or suggestion in Williams that would indicate the desirability of incorporating into Williams the sleeve of Hosler, nor has the Examiner cited any passage in Hosler that would indicate that the sleeve could be used in the connector of Williams. The Examiner makes a statement that it would be obvious to form the electrical contact of Williams with the second interface that prevents the flexible medium from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact, as taught by Hosler, to protect the flexible medium. However, the Examiner provides no support for this statement in either Williams or Hosler. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has reached his conclusion

based on the teachings in Applicant's specification, which is impermissible hindsight reasoning by the Examiner.

Furthermore, "[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the combination." *See* Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, 8th Edition (MPEP), Section 2143.01.

The combination of Hosler and Williams proposed by the Examiner is trying to solve a problem of preventing the flexible medium from being bent toward the center of the electrical contact, which problem is already addressed by Williams. To begin, each contact in Williams is surrounded and protected by a tubular insulator that limits the movement of the contacts in Williams. *See* Williams, Figures 4 and 5. These tubular insulators already protect the tubular conductors from being bent toward the center. Furthermore, the spring fingers of the tubular conductors in Williams are designed with an end that extends radially inwardly for a portion and then extends radially outwardly to receive the mating connector and direct it into position. *See* Williams, Figures 4 and 5. The guiding function of the ends of the spring fingers in Williams would be severely limited if the sleeve of Hosler was used as the tubular insulator in Williams. The Examiner is reminded that "[i]f the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle or operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious." *See* MPEP, Section 2143.01. In this case it is clear that the combination proposed by the Examiner would change the operation of the Williams reference as discussed in detail above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-32 and 40-43 cannot be properly rejected by the combination of Williams and Hosler.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-32 and 40-43 cannot be rejected by the combination of Williams and/or Hosler and are therefore allowable.

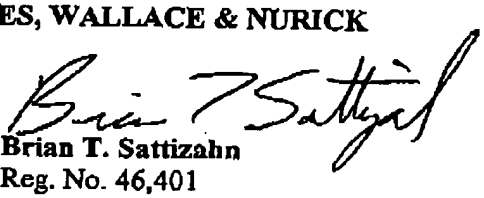
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-32 and 40-43

are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by Williams, Hosler or their combination and thus, are in condition for allowance. As the claims are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the applied art, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-32 and 40-43 in a timely manner. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
McNEES, WALLACE & NURICK

By 

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Dated: October 23, 2003

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REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

Application Number	09/900,068
Filing Date	11/21/2001
First Named Inventor	Tam Nguyen
Art Unit	2833
Examiner Name	F. Figueroa
Attorney Docket Number	21729-0002

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney or authorizations of agent given in the above-identified application:

☒ A Power of Attorney or Authorization of Agent is submitted herewith.

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☐ Please change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

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Telephone		Fax	

I am the:

☐ Applicant/inventor.

☒ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Certificate under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name	Scott C. Roland
Signature	
Date	October 23, 2003

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

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Application Number	09/900,068
Filing Date	11/21/2001
First Named Inventor	Tara Nguyen
Title	ELECTRICAL CONTACT PIN
Art Unit	2833
Examiner Name	P. Figueroa
Attorney Docket Number	21729-0092

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners at Customer Number: 26587

OR

☐ Practitioner(s) named below:

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as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I am the:

☐ Applicant/Inventor.

☒ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name	Scott C. Roland
Signature	
Date	October 23, 2003
Telephone	717-761-7920

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Tam Nguyen

Application No./Patent No.: 09/900,068 Filed/Issue Date: 11/21/2001

Entitled: ELECTRICAL CONTACT PIN

Souriau USA, a corporation
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1. ☒ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest; or
2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest

The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %

in the patent application/patent identified above by virtue of either:

A. ☐ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

B. ☒ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: Tam Nguyen To: FCI Americas Technology, Inc.
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: FCI Americas Technology, Inc. To: Souriau USA, Inc.
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

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☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

☒ Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.

NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., the original assignment document or a true copy of the original document) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, if the assignment is to be recorded in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.8]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is empowered to sign this statement on behalf of the assignee.

October 23, 2003
Date

717-767-7920
Telephone Number

Signature

Scott C. Roland
Typed or printed name

President
Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Sole Inventor
(...ung Application)

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2652/C3197

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, **Tam Nguyen**, hereinafter referred to as the assignor, residing at **1030 Whitemarsh Drive, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601**, am the inventor of certain inventions or improvements for which I am executing concurrently herewith an application for Letters Patent of the United States, identified as Serial No.: **09/990,068** filed **November 21, 2001**, entitled: **ELECTRICAL PIN CONTACT.**

WHEREAS, **FCI Americas Technology, Inc.**, hereinafter referred to as the assignee, of **One East First Street, Reno, Nevada 89501**, a corporation of **Nevada** is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to the said inventions or improvements in the United States of America and elsewhere in the world and in and to the said application, and in, to and under any and all Letters Patent which may be granted on or as a result thereof in the United States and in elsewhere in the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar ($1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, I the said assignor, have sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, to said assignee, the entire right, title and interest, to the extent such right, title and interest can or does exist in the United States and in elsewhere in the world and to said inventions or improvements and said application and any and all continuations, divisions and renewals of and substitutes for said application, and in, to and under any and all Letters Patent which may be granted on or as a result thereof in the United States and in elsewhere in the world, and any re-issue or re-issues or extension or extensions of said Letters Patent, and assign to and authorize said assignee to file in my name applications for Letters Patent in the United States and in elsewhere in the world the same to be held and enjoyed by said assignee, its successors, assigns nominees or legal representatives, to the full end of the term or terms for which said Letters Patent respectively may be granted, reissued or extended, as fully and entirely, as the same would have been held and enjoyed by me had this assignment, sale and transfer not been made.

, Sole Inventor
(. luing Application)

AND I hereby covenant that I have full right to convey the entire interest herein assigned, and that I have not executed and will not execute any agreement in conflict herewith, and I further covenant and agree that I will each time request is made and without undue delay, execute and deliver all such papers as may be necessary or desirable to perfect the title to said inventions or improvements, said application and said Letters Patent to said assignee, its successors, assigns, nominees or legal representatives, and I agree to communicate to said assignee, or to its nominee all known facts respecting said inventions or improvements, said application and said Letters Patent, to testify in any legal proceedings, to sign all lawful papers, to execute all disclaimers and divisional, continuing, reissue and foreign applications, to make all rightful oaths, and generally to do everything possible to aid said assignee, its successors, assigns nominees and legal representatives to obtain and enforce for its or their own benefit proper patent protection for said inventions or improvements in the United States and in elsewhere in the world.

AND I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States and any official of any other country, whose duty it is to issue patents on applications as aforesaid, to issue to said assignee, as assignee of the entire right, title and interest, any and all Letters Patent for said inventions or improvements, including any and all Letters Patents of the United States which may be issued and granted on or as a result of the application aforesaid, in accordance with the terms of this assignment.

Sole Inventor
(Pending Application)

THE undersigned hereby grant(s) **M. Richard Page, Registration No. 25,299 and/or Steven M. Reiss, Registration No. 37,519** the power to insert on this assignment the serial number and filing date of my United States Patent Application and any further identification which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office or any other country for recordation of this document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

1/9/02 (L.S.)
TAM NGUYEN

STATE of PA :

COUNTY of YORK :

On this 9th day of January, year of 2002, before me personally came the above named TAM NGUYEN, to me personally known and known to me to be the same individual who executed the foregoing assignment, and who acknowledged to me that execution of the same was of that person's own free will for the use and purposes therein set forth.

Laura G Corcoran 1/9/02
Notary Public

NOTARIAL SEAL
LAURA G. CORCORAN, NOTARY PUBLIC
WEST MANCHESTER TWP., YORK COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAY 19, 2003

ASSIGNMENT

This assignment is made the 30th day of April, Two Thousand Three

BETWEEN

FCI AMERICAS TECHNOLOGY, INC., a corporation of Nevada. One East First Street, Reno, Nevada, 89501, United States of America, (hereinafter called "the Assignor"); and

SOURIAU USA, INC., a corporation of Delaware, 25 Grumbacher Road, York PA 17402, United States of America, (hereinafter called "the Assignee").

WHEREAS

(A) The Assignor is the owner of record for the:

United States Patent 6,079,986

United States Patent application number 09/990,068, filed November 21, 2001

Canadian Parent application number 2,409,887, filed October 25, 2002

(B) The parties hereto have agreed that these properties be transferred to the Assignee.

NOW THIS DEED witnesseth as follows:

In consideration of the premises and the payment of the sum of five US dollars ($5) by the Assignee to the Assignor (receipt of which is hereby acknowledged), the Assignor hereby sells, assigns and transfers to the assignee the entire right, title and interest in the above named properties to the said SOURIAU USA, INC.

Signed at Etters, Pennsylvania,

this 30th day of April, 2003.

FCI AMERICAS TECHNOLOGY, INC.
(In accordance with the laws of its incorporation)

By: _____
Name: M. Richard Page
Title: Vice President

SOURIAU USA, INC.,
In accordance with the laws of its incorporation)

By: _____
Name:
Title: